

CA1
J150
-1998
I52



3 1761 11765921 9

CAI
J150
- 1998
I52

Canadian
Firearms
Centre



Centre
canadien des
armes à feu

How the Law Applies to Me If....

I OWN A FIREARM

The *Firearms Act* brings about changes that will affect firearms owners and users.

This fact sheet is of interest to you if:

- you own primarily long guns such as rifles or shotguns, **and**
- you are 18 years of age or older.

FIREARMS LICENCES

Licensing of firearms users will begin on December 1, 1998. Two types of licences will be available:

- a "possession-only" licence and
- a "possession and acquisition" licence.

Your firearms licence will identify which class or classes of firearms you are permitted to have:

- non-restricted (such as rifles and shotguns),
- restricted (primarily handguns),
- prohibited (automatic and converted automatic firearms, handguns with 105mm or less barrels, 25 or 32 caliber handguns, and other firearms prohibited by Order in Council).

If you have firearms, you must have a licence by January 1, 2001. A valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) is considered a licence.

Possession-Only Licence

If you already have firearms and don't plan to get any more, you will apply for a possession-only licence. This licence authorizes possession of the firearms that you already own and will allow you to borrow similar firearms.

You must apply for a possession-only licence before January 1, 2001. After that date, anyone getting their first firearms licence under the new law will get the "possession and acquisition" licence.

A possession-only licence is renewable every five years. A notice will be sent reminding you to renew.

You do not need to pass the Canadian Firearms Safety Course test to get a possession-only licence.

Possession and Acquisition Licence

Whether you now have firearms or not, if you plan to acquire any, you must obtain a possession and acquisition licence. This licence will allow you to buy firearms or receive them as gifts, inheritances or in trade.

A possession and acquisition licence must be renewed every five years. A notice will be sent reminding you to renew.

In most cases, you will have to pass the Canadian Firearms Safety Course test to get a possession and acquisition licence. There are some exceptions (see below).

CANADIAN FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE

The revised Canadian Firearms Safety Course and the new Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course reflect the new law and regulations. The first course deals with non-restricted firearms safety. The second focuses on restricted firearms safety.

You won't need to pass the test of either course to get a possession-only licence.

To get a possession and acquisition licence, you must pass the necessary test, **UNLESS**:

1. You have already passed the test;
2. You have passed a firearms safety course before January 1, 1995 that has been "designated as equivalent" by the Attorney General of Manitoba or Quebec;
3. A Chief Firearms Officer certifies that your knowledge of firearms laws and safe handling practices meets the standards required by the licensing regulations.

If you have passed the Canadian Firearms Safety Course test before February 1, 1999 (covering firearms safety for both non-restricted and restricted firearms), or have received alternate credit for it as set out above, you will not be required to pass new Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course test to get a possession and acquisition licence for restricted firearms.

If you were prohibited, by court order, from possessing firearms, you will have to take the

Canadian Firearms Safety Course **AND** pass the test, before applying for a firearms licence. This rule applies even if you took the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and passed the test before your prohibition.

REGISTRATION

The *Firearms Act* will require you to register all of your firearms. You must have a valid firearms licence to register your firearms. A valid FAC will also be accepted.

Registration of long guns will begin on December 1, 1998. You will have until January 1, 2003 to register all the rifles and shotguns that you had when the law came into effect. Any firearm acquired after implementation date is a transfer (see next page).

A registration certificate will be issued for each firearm that you own. It is valid for as long as you own the firearm. If you lend your firearm to another person, you must also lend the registration certificate.

When you receive a gun or you transfer (sell, barter or give) one to another person, the ownership must be transferred to the new owner. At the time of transfer, a transfer authorization number will be issued to both the new and previous owners. This number will serve as a receipt for the previous owner as well as for the new owner until his or her registration certificate arrives in the mail.

If you have firearms that are registered now (primarily handguns), you will be asked to assist in updating your personal and firearms information. This information will then be transferred to the new registration system.

A certificate under the new registration system will then be issued for each of these firearms. There will be no fee for this.

FEES

There will be separate fees for licensing, registration and transfers.

Licence Fees

A five-year possession only licence will cost \$10 in the first year following implementation (December 1, 1998 to November 30, 1999).

This fee will rise on a sliding scale to a maximum of \$60 on September 1, 2000. A five-year possession and acquisition licence will cost either \$60 (for non-restricted firearms only) or \$80 (for non-restricted and restricted or prohibited firearms).

If you hunt to sustain yourself or your family, you will not have to pay a licence fee for long guns. You should contact your provincial or territorial Chief Firearms Officer or a local Firearms Officer to see if you meet the requirement(s) for 'sustenance hunter' in your province or territory.

Registration Fees

If you register your long guns in the first year following implementation (December 1, 1998 to November 30, 1999), it will cost you a flat fee of \$10 for all of the firearms that you register at the same time.

This fee will rise on a sliding scale to a maximum of \$18 on September 1, 2000. You will only have to pay once to register a firearm. Sustenance hunters will not have to pay a registration fee for long guns.

Transfer Fees

For each firearm that you acquire after the Act comes into effect, it will cost you \$25 to transfer the ownership. There will be no transfer fee for sustenance hunters for long guns.

COMING INTO FORCE

The *Firearms Act* is being phased in from December 1, 1998 to January 1, 2003.

INFORMATION

For more information, or to order a copy of the *Firearms Act*, its regulations, application forms and other CFC publications, contact us at:

1-800-731-4000 (Toll Free)

Web site: <http://www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca>

e-mail: canadian.firearms@justice.x400.gc.ca

This fact sheet is intended to provide general information only. For legal references, please refer to the *Firearms Act* and its regulations.

Provincial, territorial and municipal laws, regulations and policies may also apply. Contact your Chief Firearms Officer.

Le présent feuillet d'information est également disponible en français.







Oxford[®]

ESSELTE

10%

